



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

ROLE OF THE PHYSICIAN IN ENVIRONMENTAL PEDIATRICS—Carl C. Fischer, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Pediatrics, Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital; Director of the Health Service, Girard College, Philadelphia, Pa. Landsberger Medical Books, Inc., 51 East 42nd Street, New York, N. Y., 1960. 122 pages, \$5.50.

This small book is a compilation of lectures to medical students. These lectures were designed to prepare the medical student for his practice if he intended in any way to deal with children. Yet the established physician can read with much satisfaction to himself, his patient and to society in general.

The text carries the reader from the first and older concepts of pediatrics to the modern or newer pediatrics which he describes as "Social Pediatrics." The challenge to the physician is not only that of his individual responsibility to the physical and emotional well being of his patient but more as to how the child fits into the modern complex society and community living.

Chapters with this perspective cover accidents, adoptions, the handicapped and the adolescent. The chapter on the school health program gives emphasis to the well known truism that if more of the required school examinations were made by the private physician and these more efficiently and more frequently than is the practice in most such programs, the general child health would be better.

The author concludes his text by a statement that if the pediatrician shall dedicate himself to the newer concept of pediatrics, his reward shall be great.

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MANUAL FOR EXAMINATION OF PATIENTS—School of Medicine and North Carolina Memorial Hospital, The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C.; Kerr L. White, M.D., Chairman; The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Illinois Street, Chicago 11, 1960. 231 pages, \$4.50.

Although this little book is entitled a Manual for Examination of Patients, it not only describes interviewing, physical examination and principal laboratory procedures but also suggests a general philosophy of patient care. The product of an interdepartmental committee of the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, it represents the evolution of a mimeographed text designed to satisfy what the authors felt were two unmet needs in the standard text books of physical diagnosis. These were (1) a paucity of material on interviewing and history-taking, (2) integration of existing knowledge in psychiatry, preventive medicine and the behavioral sciences into a student's habits and methods.

At its present stage this is a fairly authoritative, as well as didactic manual, although it disclaims being either. The outline for the history is lengthy and detailed. There is an emphasis on social and economic factors. The section on physical examination is comparatively short except for certain specialist examinations such as neurologic and orthopedic.

Essentially this book is intended as a filler for existing texts on physical diagnosis. It emphasizes certain selected

items in great detail and leaves out others of equal importance. It is the sort of book which can serve well in the institution of the authors but needs to be more complete before it can be recommended for general circulation.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.

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SEA WITHIN—The Story of Our Body Fluid—William D. Snively, Jr., M.D., Lecturer in Pediatrics, University of Louisville School of Medicine; Attending Physician, Evansville Child Health Conferences; Medical Department, Mead Johnson & Company. J. B. Lippincott Company, East Washington Square, Philadelphia 5, Pennsylvania, 1960. 150 pages, \$3.95.

James L. Gamble, founder of the modern study of electrolytes said, "Before our extremely remote ancestors could come ashore to enjoy their Eocene Eden or their Paleozoic Palm Beach, it was necessary for them to establish an enclosed aqueous medium which would carry on the role of sea water." The great importance of our body fluids and their relationship to their distant ancestor, the sea, are the major concerns of this small volume.

It is the story of the chemistry and physiology of the body fluids, done for the layman and the ancillary medical worker. The concepts are presented simply, usually by analogy and illustration. Most of the analogies are good, although occasionally they become more cute than educational—for instance, Chapter 9, entitled "The Seal of Death," which discusses diseases of volume deficit and of volume excess.

Although intended primarily for the layman this book can be of interest—and is well recommended—to the large numbers of physicians among us who are still perplexed by the intricacies of the facts about the body fluids.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.

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DIVERTICULITIS—Sara M. Jordan, M.D., Founder and Former Head of the Department of Gastroenterology, The Lahey Clinic; member of the Staff, New England Baptist Hospital, and New England Deaconess Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts; and Russell S. Boles, Jr., M.D., Member of the staff, Department of Gastroenterology, The Lahey Clinic; New England Baptist Hospital, and New England Deaconess Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts. Modern Medical Monographs 21—Irving S. Wright, M.D., Editor in Chief, and Richard H. Orr, M.D., Consulting Editor. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y., 1960. 90 pages, \$4.75.

This 82-page monograph is the last undertaking of Sara Jordan, finished by her collaborator, Russell Boles, Jr. It is a succinct and critical review of the history of diverticulosis and diverticulitis followed by a discussion of the subject based on the authors' broad experience with colon disorders.

The diagnosis and treatment of diverticulosis and diverticulitis and their complications are discussed at some length. The indications for surgical intervention are presented but the details of surgical techniques are omitted.

This is recommended reading for anyone interested in the subject.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.